



City of San Diego Water Policy Implementation Task Force
October 30, 2012
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Operations Center II (MOC) Auditorium
9192 Topaz Way, San Diego, CA 92123

Record of Actions

- 1. Call to Order – CHAIR CARY LOWE CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 2:03 P.M.**

Members Present:

Corrine A. Brindley
Julia M. Chunn-Heer
Dawn Guendert
Gordon A. Hess
Cary D. Lowe
Bruce Rainey
Glen Schmidt
Keith R. Solar

Members Absent:

Faith Picking
Douglas S. White

- 2. Non-Agenda Public Comment**

Joe Nestor commented to the task force on water conservation, regarding a water pump that his company sells that can help people save thousands of gallons per year.

- 3. Task Force Member Comment**

Glen Schmidt commented on the “Long Range Water Resources Plan” and requested that the task force allow a presentation from staff regarding this document. He also requested that staff provide the draft document to task force members.

- 4. Approval of the Record of Action Items from September 24, 2012**

ACTION: Request to add member attendance.

Request to change ITEM 6: Motion 4 and Motion 7 to *Motion Passes* per new information from the City Attorney regarding the required amount of votes needed to pass a motion. When having quorum, the task force needs only to receive a majority of members present to pass a vote.

Record of Action Items approved with changes.
6 approve. 2 abstentions.

5. ITEM-1: DISCUSSION/ACTION - Establishment of Working Groups (10 min)

PART A: Establishment of “Effective Rate Structure” working group

ACTION: No action taken.

PART B: Establishment of additional working groups

ACTION: No action taken.

The Task Force discussed the following:

1. Chair Cary Lowe requested Task Force members to submit requests to council staff regarding individual preference for working group assignment.
2. Task Force member Corrine A. Brindley requested to post working group membership information on the Task Force website.
3. The Task Force will be drafting a letter to the Natural Resources and Culture Committee requesting that the group be granted an extension to permit the Task Force to exist beyond May 2013 to allow their final report to be reviewed by IROC and the City Attorney before being submitted for City Council consideration.

6. ITEM 2: DISCUSSION/ACTION – “Outreach and Education” and “Retrofit at Sale” Draft Recommendations on Water Conservation (15 min)

PART A: Discussion of “Outreach and Education” and “Retrofit at Sale” Draft Recommendations

The Task Force discussed the following:

1. Chair Cary Lowe brought forth two recommendations to reconsider from the previous Task Force meeting on September 24th. The two recommendations were provided again to offer the Task Force a chance to adopt as final recommendations.

PART B: Adoption of “Outreach and Education” Recommendation

ACTION:

1. Motion to approve, “Substantially increase water conservation outreach and education among the general public, to establish a citywide water conservation ethic that will influence water use both indoors and outdoors and in both residential and commercial settings. Call on elected officials, community leaders, media outlets and other influential persons to participate in conveying the message of the importance of conserving water to ensure the sustainability of the region, even if it does not result in immediate cost reductions to consumers. Instruct city staff to report on the cost and effectiveness of past outreach and education efforts and to make recommendations for future efforts.”

Motion fails due to lack of a second.

2. Motion to approve, “Implement permanent and ongoing water conservation and outreach program. We recommend that City leaders, elected officials and others take on the responsibility of helping to create a City wide water conservation ethic. In addition, request that City staff report back to the task force on the costs of previous efforts in this area and the cost of operating an ongoing public education program in support of water conservation.”

Motion passes. Unanimous.

PART C: Adoption of “Retrofit at Sale” Recommendation

ACTION: No action taken.

The Task Force discussed the following:

1. Due to new information, the recommendation for “Retrofit at Sale” presented at the September 24th meeting is considered to have passed with a vote of 5 members. The Task Force no longer needs to adopt a new recommendation for “Retrofit at Sale”
2. Chair Cary Lowe requested that the “Retrofit at Sale” discussion continue at the next Conservation working group meeting to address specific municipal code requirements.

7. ITEM-3: DISCUSSION/ACTION – Report from Keith Solar for information, discussion, and possible action regarding COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY PROPOSED DESALINATED WATER PURCHASE AGREEMENT (10 min)

ACTION: No Action Taken.

The Task Force discussed the following:

1. The City Attorney advised the Task Force members that it may be a conflict of interest for some members to take any action or offer an official opinion on this subject matter. The City Attorney requested the Task Force to postpone any action until their office has had time to review the issue. Task Force members are requested to contact the City Attorney if they require clarification on this issue.
2. Task Force member Keith Solar gave an information presentation summarizing the San Diego County Water Authority proposed desalination water purchase agreement.
3. Chair Cary Lowe informed Task Force members that they can take action regarding this topic at the next meeting on November 27th if they wish to do so, in advance of consideration of this matter by the City Council.

8. ITEM-4: DISCUSSION/ACTION – Water Recycling Sources Working Group (60 min)

PART A: Report from the “Water Recycling Sources” Working Group Regarding Proposed Draft Recommendations

ACTION: No action taken.

The Task Force discussed the following:

1. Task Force member Dawn Guendert gave a report on the Water Recycling Sources working group DRAFT recommendations.
2. Task Force member Bruce Rainey asked to consider expanding the “no permit policy” for graywater systems that discharge more than 250 gallons per day. Some graywater systems are easy to implement, but may discharge more than 250 gallons per day.
3. Task Force member Glen Schmidt requested that staff comment on the proposed DRAFT recommendations before the Task Force considers adoption.
4. Marsi Steirer from the Public Utilities Department addressed the Task Force with comments pertaining to the recommendation that the Public Utilities Department collaborate with the Stormwater Department. She noted that the Public Utilities Department has and will continue to collaborate with the Stormwater Department.

5. Marsi Steirer from the Public Utilities Department addressed questions relating to non-potable reuse, also known as “purple pipe.” She noted that a significant amount of investment has gone into the “purple pipe” infrastructure and the city will continue to maintain and operate this system.
6. Brent Eidson from the Public Utilities Department commented that the Task Force would benefit from a presentation regarding the permitting process for the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant.
7. Task Force member Dawn Guendert commented on a letter from the California Coastal Commission regarding that the Recycled Water Study was part of negotiations for the past waiver for the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant. The letter indicated the next waiver may be conditioned on the next steps described in the Recycled Water Study. Task Force member Julia Chunn-Heer commented that she can circulate the California Coastal Commission letter to Task Force members for their reference.

PART B: Adoption of “Water Recycling Sources” Working Group Recommendations

ACTION: No action taken.

The Task Force discussed the following:

1. Task Force member Glen Schmidt proposed postponing adoption of DRAFT recommendations to allow members to talk with constituents and to receive feedback from staff before adopting final recommendations.
2. Chair Cary Lowe instructed the new working groups to provide DRAFT recommendations to the Task Force members at least two weeks prior to their next meeting.
3. The Water Recycling Sources working group will review the DRAFT recommendations to make any revisions per constituent or staff comments.
4. Task Force member Julia Chunn-Heer commented that the Task Force should be cautious of delaying action. She urged the Task Force to make an implementation plan with timelines to ensure the Task Force reaches its end goal of making “big picture” recommendations.

5. The Task Force will postpone adoption of DRAFT recommendations until the next meeting on November 27th.
6 members in favor. 2 members opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Scott Tulloch commented on the Recycled Water Study and Point Loma Waste Water Treatment Plant and the benefits associated with indirect potable-reuse.

9. ITEM-5: INFORMATION – Presentation from the Equinox Center and San Diego County Taxpayers Association regarding WATER RATE STRUCTURES AND CONSERVATION (20 min plus Q&A)

ACTION: No action taken. Information only.

The Task Force discussed the following:

1. The presentation focused on a revised rate structure for all customers in San Diego.
2. Currently, there seems to be minimal impact on water bills when San Diego customers reduce water use, due to the large portion of the bills attributable to capital costs.
3. The Equinox Center research currently focuses on single-family residences due to the availability of data. If good data becomes available for commercial and multi-family residences, the Equinox Center will conduct further research.

10. ITEM-6: INFORMATION – Presentation from Irvine Ranch Water District regarding PROGRESSIVE APPROACH TO RATES, REVENUE STABILITIES AND WATER CONSERVATION: THE ALLOCATION-BASED RATE STRUCTURE (20 min plus Q&A)

ACTION: No action taken. Information only.

The Task Force discussed the following:

1. The IRWD default for each residential home is 4 occupants, based on the most current census data.
2. Due to their large volume of recycled water produced, the IRWD has not needed to promote the usage of graywater.
3. The IRWD capital improvement projects are funded through a separate mechanism, not through rate payer water bills.
4. The IRWD rate structure is set up to allocate water efficiently; allocations vary depending on lot size and other variations.

5. Commercial customers of IRWD have their rate structure based on their specific needs, including seasonal needs.
6. All water use allocations for IRWD customers are completed by administrative staff; they are not required to go through a board.
7. The IRWD education and outreach efforts are similar to the City of San Diego efforts. The IRWD utilizes community events, online information, workshops, and social media outlets. Successful outreach also includes identifying customers that over use water and contacting them to find a solution.
8. The IRWD operating costs are covered completely through a monthly service fee.

11. ADJOURNMENT – CHAIR CARY LOWE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT APPROXIMATELY 4:55 p.m. The next Task Force meeting will be on November 27th at 1:00 pm.